

To: Manzanilla, Enrique[Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]; Yogi, David[Yogi.David@epa.gov]
Cc: Meer, Daniel[Meer.Daniel@epa.gov]; Moxley, Bret[Moxley.Bret@epa.gov]
From: Harris-Bishop, Rusty
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 9:49:20 PM
Subject: RE: citizen comment re spill impact upon Navajo Nation

Hi Enrique:

Can someone in the region handle it? We are preparing for the public meeting tonight. Here is the statement Kelly sent out this morning . . . I think we've got a more detailed one coming out, but this will suffice for now, I think.

Navajo Water Tank – STATEMENT

The U.S. EPA will work closely with Navajo Nation authorities to investigate a recent complaint about water contamination in one tank provided by U.S. EPA for agricultural purposes in the Shiprock, New Mexico area. Aside from this complaint, EPA has received no other complaints about tank water contamination.

Following the Gold King Mine release, an EPA contractor has been providing storage and delivery of agricultural water in Shiprock and other parts of the Navajo Nation. EPA did not administer distribution of water from the tanks.

Specifically, thirteen tanks were deployed to provide watering service within the Navajo Nation following the Gold King Mine release, which impacted the San Juan River. Nine of these tanks were deployed in the Shiprock area. These tanks were sourced from the water division of Triple S Trucking Company, an Aztec, N.M.-based tanker truck company. According to the contractor, the tanks were steam cleaned and inspected prior to use at Shiprock. Water distributed by Triple S tanks, under contract to EPA, was provided by the Bloomfield Utility Department, the municipal water utility company for the City of Bloomfield, N.M.

Based on EPA surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in the Navajo Nation has returned to pre-event conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. Based on that conversation the President indicated that the Navajo Nation may re-open the San Juan River for irrigation purposes as soon as this weekend. It was also agreed on that call, that Friday August 21, would be the last day for EPA water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA will continue to work with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented. In addition, EPA is positioned to provide technical assistance in flushing irrigation ditches on the Navajo Nation.

Thanks!

Rusty



Rusty Harris-Bishop • Superfund Project Manager • Communications Liaison • US Environmental Protection Agency •

75 Hawthorne Street • San Francisco, CA • 94105 • 415.972.3140 • 415.694.8840 (c)

From: Manzanilla, Enrique
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Yogi, David; Harris-Bishop, Rusty
Cc: Meer, Daniel; Moxley, Bret
Subject: Fwd: citizen comment re spill impact upon Navajo Nation

Are u all handling this type of complaint? We can if u can't

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ebbert, Laura" <Ebbert.Laura@epa.gov>
Date: August 20, 2015 at 2:32:02 PM PDT
To: "COHEN, Deborra" <Cohen.Deborra@epa.gov>, "Manzanilla, Enrique" <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Cc: "Holoubek, Helga" <Holoubek.Helga@epa.gov>, "SHOJI, KERRY" <SHOJI.KERRY@EPA.GOV>
Subject: RE: citizen comment re spill impact upon Navajo Nation

This message was received by Mr. Blumenfeld and assigned to Division Director for Superfund Enrique Manzanilla. You can mark it off of your "to do's" out of the public email box.

Thanks!

LE

Laura Ebbert
Manager, Tribal Section
Land Division, LND-3-1
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 947-3561

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/tribal>

From: COHEN, Deborra
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Ebbert, Laura
Cc: Holoubek, Helga; SHOJI, KERRY
Subject: citizen comment re spill impact upon Navajo Nation

Hi Laura,

Any suggestion as to what to do with this email which was received this afternoon?

The US EPA has this spill website <http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine> for comment/questions, though it feels a bit improper to suggest that they submit their comment again there. The link to the comment page is here:
<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/forms/contact-us-about-emergency-response-gold-king-mine-release>

Thanks in advance for your input.

Deborra

Deborra Cohen
Director, Environmental Information Center / Library

Cohen.Deborra@epa.gov / 415-972-3655
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/library>

U.S. EPA Region 9 Library / 75 Hawthorne St. / San Francisco, CA 94105

From: Holoubek, Helga **On Behalf Of** R9.Info
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:33 PM
To: COHEN, Deborra; SHOJI, KERRY
Subject: FW: Navajo Nation

Hi,

This email was sent to Jared Blumenfeld and also to the R9 mailbox. Is this something we need to respond to since it's an opinion and not really a question?

Thanks,

Helga

From: Xander McDonald [<mailto:xmcdnd@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:07 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared; R9.Info
Subject: Navajo Nation

I am an Arizona resident and a taxpayer. My sister-in-law is Navajo. What is being done to the Navajo Nation is a travesty.

You need to take immediate action to fix these problems you have caused. Fire the contractor that brought them dirty water and get them clean water immediately. Clean up the river spill...

If this problem was affecting an affluent, white community, we know your agency's reaction would be much different.

Xander McDonald

480-200-0713